

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 H-01

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MARR, RP

SUBJECT: DAILY EXPRESS EDITORIAL ON BASE TALKS

REF: MANILA 0152

1. IN AN EDITORIAL FOLLOW-UP TO MARCOS' JANUARY 4
COMMENTS ON THE BASE TALKS (REFTEL), DAILY EXPRESS OF
JANUARY 6 MADE THESE OBSERVATIONS:

BEGIN QUOTE. AS WE SEE IT, THE MAIN POINT OF THIS
OFFICIAL STATEMENT IS THAT AT THIS STAGE THE PHILIPPINES
IS NO LONGER CERTAIN WHAT EXACTLY IS THE U.S. POSITION
ON THE BASES ISSUE. TO BE SURE, THE PHILIPPINES CANNOT
TAKE FOR GRANTED THAT WHAT THE FORD ADMINISTRATION HAD
ENUNCIATED ON THIS PARTICULAR QUESTION, THE INCOMING
CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL ADOPT IN TOTO. CONSIDERING
THAT FORD IS A REPUBLICAN AND CARTER A DEMOCRAT, IT IS
QUITE POSSIBLE THAT CARTER HAS A DIFFERENT

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APPRECIATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF AMERICAN INTERESTS,
IN THE LIGHT OF WHICH HE WILL HAVE TO CONDUCT U.S.
RELATIONS WITH THE REST OF THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY ITS
ALLIES AND ITS RIVALS. IN VIEW OF THIS, IT IS
ESSENTIAL, AS PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS STRESSED, FOR THE
PHILIPPINES TO WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION
HAS BEEN INAUGURATED WHEN PRESUMABLY IT WILL COME OUT

WITH ITS OFFICIAL STAND ON THE BASES ISSUE. UNTIL THEN, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO ASSUME THAT AT THIS STAGE THE UNITED STATES IS STILL INTERESTED IN THE BASES NEGOTIATIONS. FOR ALL WE KNOW, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION MAY FIND IT NO LONGER NECESSARY FOR THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE MAINTAINING ITS AIR AND NAVAL BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, IN WHICH CASE THE LOGICAL MOVE WOULD BE TO ABROGATE THE EXISTING RP-US MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT. PARA. AS FAR AS THE PHILIPPINES IS CONCERNED, IT HAS MADE ITS POSITION QUITE CLEAR: IN THE INTEREST OF WORLD PEACE, THE BALANCE OF POWER IN THE ASIAN-PACIFIC REGION MUST BE MAINTAINED. FOR THIS REASON, THE PHILIPPINES IS PREPARED TO ALLOW THE UNITED STATES TO CONTINUE MAINTAINING AND USING ITS AIR AND NAVAL INSTALLATIONS ON THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY BASES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY. IT IS REGRETTABLE, HOWEVER, THAT ALTHOUGH THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN PAINS TO MAKE ITS STAND ON THE BASES ISSUE AS CLAR AS POSSIBLE, ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE UNITED STATES TO DISTORT THE PHILIPPINE POSITION BY MAKING IT APPEAR AS BEING BASED SOLELY ON PECUNIARY CONSIDERATIONS WHEN THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS THAT THE QUESTION OF RENTALS FOR THE USE OF THE BASES IS THE LEAST OF THE PHILIPPINE DEMANDS. NO DOUBT, THE AMERICANS HAVE A MOTIVE IN DOING THIS, AND THAT IS ENTIRELY THEIR BUSINESS.

PARA. IN THE EVENT, HOWEVER, THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION SHOULD DECIDE IN FAVOR OF RESUMING THE RP-US BASES TAKS, PERHAPS IT WOULD BE MORE IN KEEPING WITH THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HISTORIC TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES IF THE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE CARRIED OUT IN A LESS HOSTILE ATMOSPHERE. END QUOTE.

2. THIS CAREFULLY WRITTEN PIECE, APPEARING AS IT DOES IN THE OFFICIALLY-INSPIRED DAILY EXPRESS, PROVIDES INTERESTING AMPLIFICATION TO MARCOS' BRIEF REMARKS JANUARY 4. SULLIVAN

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